



*M. Lederberg*

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Michael Sovern  
President-elect  
Columbia University  
Low Memorial Library  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Mike:

I've had both first and secondhand some flattering remarks about my first annual report which came out a few months ago. There was also some attribution about the lack of the verb "to teach" in that writing. The fact is that we have very little organized teaching here; so there would not be a great deal to write about in that sphere! I don't feel that we need make any apologies for the amount of learning, whether from nature, or from our preceptors, that can still flourish without other customary academic forms. Of course we do operate at an advanced level and within a coherent and specialized area of inquiry; and there is no reason to use our experience as a precedent for broader reaches of education. On the contrary, I am deeply grateful to be able to embrace Columbia, particularly, as a source of stimulus and criticism over the breadth of learning that can appropriately be accommodated in our local institutions. *superior what*

I am sorry we had to miss you a couple of months ago and hope that such lapses can be repaired before too long.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg